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1965/05/11

DECLASSIFIED

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

~~TOP SECRET~~

Classification

May 11 8 12 PM '65

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 3103

Info:

INFO: Amembassy SAIGON IMMEDIATE 2558

~~NODIS~~

STRICTLY EYES ONLY
/FOR AMBASSADORS FROM SECRETARY

Highest levels have determined that we should undertake short trial
cessation of bombing against DRV in order to test Communist reactions. I
as reported septel.
have seen Dobrynin tonight/~~and made oral statement to him regarding our~~
~~handling in inside memo of being sent septel~~

You should make earliest possible arrangement see DRV Ambassador
Moscow to convey parallel message as set forth below. We are using you as
channel to avoid using Soviets as intermediaries and also to insure that message
~~is accurately and~~ is accurately and directly delivered. We leave appropriate
method of arranging contact to you and are not concerned if Soviets should
become aware you are making such contact. You should of course make
maximum effort avoid any attention by any third party.

Message you should deliver should be oral but confirmed by written piece
of paper which you should hand to Ambassador with request he deliver message
to Hanoi. Message is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY R. Plueg DATE 20-2-65
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE The Secretary
PA or FOR EXEMPTIONS

Drafted by:
FE:WPBundy:mk 5/11/65

Clearances:
White House W.H. Bundy

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

575 - R. Read

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BEGIN TEXT: The highest authority in this Government has asked me to inform Hanoi that there will be no air attacks on North Viet-Nam for a period beginning at noon, Washington time, Wednesday, May 12, and running into next week.

In this decision the United States Government has taken account of repeated suggestions from various quarters, including public statements by Hanoi representatives, that there can be no progress toward peace while there are air attacks on North Viet-Nam. The United States Government remains convinced that the underlying cause of trouble in Southeast Asia is armed action against the people and Government of South Vietnam by forces whose actions can be decisively affected from North Vietnam. The United States will be very watchful to see whether in this period of pause there are significant reductions in such armed actions by such forces. The United States must emphasize that the road toward the end of armed attacks ~~against~~ against the people and Government of Vietnam is the only road which will permit the Government of Vietnam and the Government of the United States to bring a permanent end to their air attacks on North Vietnam.

In taking this action the United States is well aware of the risk that a temporary suspension of these air attacks may be misunderstood as an indication of weakness, and it is therefore necessary for me to point out that if this pause should be misunderstood in ~~xx~~ this fashion, by any party, it would be necessary to demonstrate more clearly than ever, after the pause ended, that the United States

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is determined not to accept aggression without reply in Vietnam. Moreover, the United States ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ must point out that the decision to end air attacks for this limited trial period is one which it must be free to reverse if at any time in the coming days there should be actions by the other side in Vietnam which required immediate reply.

But my Government is very hopeful that there will be no such misunderstanding and that this first pause in the air attacks may meet with a response which will permit further and more extended suspension of this form of military action in the expectation of equally constructive actions by the other side in the future. END TEXT

GP-1

END

) RUSK